

## **LA JOYA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT JOINT STATEMENT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND DR. ALDA BENAVIDES**

Dr. Alda Benavides has announced her retirement as Superintendent of Schools for the La Joya Independent School District. An Agreement has been reached which allows Dr. Benavides the ability to retire and to pursue other interests and permits the Board to pursue hiring another Superintendent. The Board and Dr. Benavides have entered into the Agreement believing it is in their respective best interests and in the best interests of the District.

On behalf of the entire District, the Board of Trustees expresses its sincere appreciation to Dr. Benavides for her efforts while serving as Superintendent of this great school district and its wonderful students, parents and administrators, and for the many achievements and accomplishments of the entire District team during Dr. Benavides' tenure as Superintendent, some of the most notable of which are:

- The District has been divided into three comprehensive high schools.
- The District has opened three early colleges one of which has been named a National Blue Ribbon School.
- The District has opened a College and Career Center which has graduated over 2,000 previous students who had previously dropped out of school.
- The District has opened 10 new school campuses (two high schools, two middle schools, six elementary schools) and built a transportation building and a child nutrition building.
- The District has obtained an "A" rating in financial accountability 11 years in a row.
- The District has established academies at all levels to increase opportunities and increased number of dual credit hours and associate degrees.
- The District renovated its central office.

Dr. Benavides thanks the present and past Board of Trustees for providing her with the opportunity to serve in the La Joya Independent School District. A school district is measured by the commitment of the Board, staff and community to its children and their achievement. This District is indeed so committed. Dr. Benavides would like to express her heartfelt appreciation to the staff and community for their support of the District's programs and services during her term as Superintendent.

Success requires hard work, dedication, leadership and vision. The Board and Dr. Benavides wish to acknowledge and recognize the teachers, principals, administrators, staff, students, parents and patrons who have all contributed to the District's success.

The Board extends its best wishes to Dr. Benavides in her future endeavors. On its part, the Board will soon begin its search for a new Superintendent as not to disrupt the District's operations.